

Serial No. 10/008,075  
Examiner: YEAGLEY, DANIEL S  
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IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. A slide rail system suitable for use on a tracked vehicle having a chassis, a front drive axle, and an endless track, the system comprising a pair of substantially spaced-apart parallel elongated slide members rails, the pair being defined by a first slide member and a second slide member, each slide member having a forward end, a rear end and a bottom portion being suitable for engaging with the endless track; each slide rail comprising a front slide rail and a rear slide rail, each front and rear slide rail having a forward end, a rear end and a bottom portion suitable for engaging the endless track, the forward end of each rear slide rail being pivotally connected to the rear end of its respective front slide rail at a first pivot point, the forward end of each front slide rail member being suitable for connection pivotally connected to at least one of the chassis of the tracked vehicle and the front drive axle of the tracked vehicle via a linkage, each linkage being suitable to be pivotally connected to one of the chassis and the front drive axle at a second pivot point forward of the first pivot point.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The slide rail system of claim [[2]] 1, wherein each front and rear slide rail has a length, and a ratio of the length of each front slide rail to the length of each rear slide rail is in a range of 50% to 100%.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) A snowmobile, comprising:

a chassis;  
an engine disposed on the chassis;  
~~at least one~~ two skis disposed on the chassis;  
a steering column operatively connected to the ~~at least one~~ two skis for steering the snowmobile;  
an endless track disposed below the chassis and being operatively connected to the engine via a front drive axle for propelling the snowmobile; and  
a pair of substantially parallel elongated slide members rails, ~~each slide member having a forward end, a rear end and a bottom portion engaging the endless track~~ each slide rail comprising a front slide rail and a rear slide rail, each front and rear slide rail having a forward end, a rear end and a bottom portion suitable for engaging the endless track, the forward end of each rear slide rail being pivotally connected to the rear end of its respective front slide rail at a first pivot point,  
the forward end of each front slide rail ~~member being suitable for connection pivotally connected to at least one of the chassis of the tracked vehicle and the front drive axle of the tracked vehicle via a linkage, each linkage being pivotally connected to one of the chassis and the front drive axle at a second pivot point forward of the first pivot point.~~

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The snowmobile of claim [[7]] 6, wherein each front and rear slide rail has a length, and a ratio of the length of each front slide rail to the length of each rear slide rail is in a range of 50% to 100%.

9. (Currently Amended)

10. (Canceled)

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11. (Canceled)

12. (New) The snowmobile of claim 6, further comprising:

a rear suspension arm having a first end pivotally connected to the chassis  
and a second end pivotally connected to the rear slide rails; and

an hydraulic mechanism having a first end connected to the rear suspension  
arm and a second end connected to the slide rails,

wherein the hydraulic mechanism controls the rate at which the rear  
suspension arm rotates with respect to the slide rails.